METHOD OF FUNCTION ACTIVATION ON A BRIDGE SYSTEM

Abstract

A bridge system having at least one bridge chip to control the operations of the bridge. Each bridge chip uniquely connects to a bus interface allowing communications between a host system and the bridge chip when that bus interface is to be utilized. Each bridge chip also connects to another bus interface connecting the bridge with a device. Each bridge chip includes an activation circuit that automatically disables that bridge chip after a power-on or a hardware reset occurs. When the activation circuit receives a protocol initialization signal, the activation circuit causes only the associated bridge chip to become enabled. Once enabled, the bridge chip drives all of the pins in the bus interface connecting the bridge with the device and remains in control of that bus interface until a power-off, a hardware reset occurs, or the bridge chip has been physically disconnected from the host.